



Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn, Organist Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

In the Hour of Trial

Call to Worship:

Come, you with dirty feet, aching backs, and weary souls.

We come bearing a heavy load of worry, frustration, and isolation.

Come, you who are hungry, thirsty, longing to meet the one who will feed you, body and soul.

We come with emptiness in our stomachs and our hearts, desperate to be filled.

Come to meet Jesus who kneels to wash our dirt and grime, who feeds us with bread and with love that never ends.

We come to receive the balm for our anxiety, the provision for our hunger, the antidote for our loneliness.

Come to receive a new commandment: love one another as Christ has loved you.

We come to embrace this new commandment so that everyone will know we are disciples of Jesus Christ, God Incarnate who came to live and love among us. Amen.

Short Refrain:

Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Late in the evening our song shall rise to thee:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and mighty!

God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayer:

Lord, you took on the form of a servant, washing the feet of those whom you disciplined. You defined humility and servanthood. You are he who was surely sent from God. On this Holy Day, we gather to remember again the miracle that you performed in our lives. You have brought us into the marvelous light. At great cost to you, you have given us new life and life eternal. All praise, honor and glory to you, O Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn: (#31 - Binder)

They'll Know We Are Christians

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we confess that we have failed to love as you teach us to love. We ignore the needs of our neighbors. We shy away from those who are hurting. We meet the suffering of others with trite answers to distance ourselves from their pain. We neglect creation, taking advantage of the earth's resources without caring for it in return. We fail to love ourselves as you love us, tending our own pain and distress by numbing our feelings instead of drawing close to you, the source of our well-being. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to joyfully follow you into a life of love and service, building a world in which all creation can flourish.

Silent prayers of confession.

Lord, let us hear and receive this good news: Jesus who comes to us, washes our feet, and invites us to sit at the table. He is the source of our salvation, saving us from our sins and reconciling us to God. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! *Amen.*

St. James Choral Anthem

At the Cross

Scripture Reading:

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 ESV

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him,

"Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Message: *By This Everyone Will Know*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Holy Communion with the Lord's Prayer:

St. James Choral Anthem

Prayer of Communion

Ever-gracious God, we gather this evening as friends gathered with Jesus in an Upper Room long ago. We come bearing the marks and burdens of a bitter and broken world. We come from anonymous places, with dry and thirsty spirits. Remind us, in the breaking of the bread, of our need and of your great sufficiency. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. Draw us nearer to each other in fellowship and service and closer to you in the covenant of faithfulness and thanksgiving. Deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love for us.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When we turned away and fell from your goodness, you gave us in him your crowning gift. Emptying himself that our joy might be full, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with the scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet and gave unto us a holy meal.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, *"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said, *"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for the many in forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world, the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

And now, let us pray with the confidence of children of God:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn: (#17 – Binder)

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Offering:

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

Offertory Music:

Garden of Gethsemane

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Holy and loving God: In our remembering this last night Jesus spent at the table with his disciples, we can't seem to let go of the image of him washing his disciples' feet. We hear the mandate: "You also ought to wash one another's feet." Where we can see one of your children who is unloved, forgotten – may we be ready to get a towel and basin. For the ones we don't see, we give our gifts. May your church always be ready to reach out in love. Amen.

Hymn of Sending: (#42 – Binder)

The Old Rugged Cross

Benediction:

This is the night that Jesus gave himself up for us and the shadow of Good Friday began to fall. Go from this place carrying the love of Christ in your hearts that your life may be a witness to our Savior who was crucified because the world did not understand the depths of God's love. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Sarabande

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: www.stmstjucc.org

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com